(d) the steps taken for utilisation of this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance was provided to organiszations for training of volunteers under Vikiang Bandhu Scheme and for providing aids to visually disabled persons. Details of the grant are given in the Statement. *(See* below).

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

Statement

Details of grant provided to various organisations under National Fund for people with disabilities

Name of the Organisation	Amount.
Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Sultanpur (UP)	Rs. 95,295/-
Gramanchal Vikash Sansthan Sultanpur (UP)	Rs. 1,00,000/-
Janki Gramothan Mahila Bal Vikas Sansthan, Sultanpur (UP)	Rs. 90,345/-
Kerala Federation of the Blind, Trivandrum	Rs. 1,00,000/-
The Orissa Association for the blind Malgodown (Orissa)	Rs. 1,00,000/-
CARDS' Comprehensive Action for Rural Development, Krishna Distt. (AP)	Rs. 1,00,000/-
Chetna Trust, Mysore-8	Rs. 1,00,000/-
Dahikhai Jubak Sangha, Distt. Nayagarh, Orissa	Rs. 1,00,000/-
NIVH, Dehradun (UP)	Rs. 2,00,000/-

1534. [Cancelled]

Regional Centres for Composite Services for various Disabilities

1535. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government to set up regional

centres in the country to provide composite services for different kinds of disabilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for the said centres; and

(d) the number of disabled likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) A central sector scheme has been approved for setting up of Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) for persons with disabilities in different parts of the country. The basic objective of setting up of Composite Regional Centres **(CRCs)** is to create the infrastructure required for training and manpower development, research and providing rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. An outlay of Rs. 16.89 crores has been approved for the scheme. A centrally sponsored scheme for setting up of four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with Spinal Injuries and other Orthopaedic disabilities has also been approved for providing facilities for treatment and rehabilitation services to the spinally injured and persons with other orthopaedic disabilities. An outlay of Rs. 18.52 crores has been approved for the scheme. These schemes, alsongwith other schemes/programmes for welfare of persons with disabilities are expected to cover a large number of beneficiaries.

NHFDC Loan for Self-Employment for Disabled Persons

1536. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation extends loan for self- employment ventures for improving the economic status of the disabled persons;

(b) if so, the component of subsidies in such kind of loans and the rate of success for this scheme; and

(c) the details of the loans extend to the disabled persons under the scheme during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, year-wise and profession-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no subsidy component in the loan provided by NHFDC. Instead, the loan is made available at a low rate of interest. The corporation